

to make a strong impression on the public mind, it would certainly be fatal to the Agreement, and in all probability to the Ministry. The Ministerial majority would have been unavailing; the Governor General would unquestionably have refused to sign the charter, and, if pressed, would have called the leaders of the Opposition to his councils and empowered them to appeal to the country. We have since been asked to accept the charitable hypothesis that the illness of the Minister of Railways was feigned, and that he slipped away to England for the purpose of carrying on clandestine intrigues with the members of the Company who are there. It was forgotten that, though Sir Charles Tupper might have a motive for compromising himself, the members of the Company could have none, inasmuch as, according to the Opposition organ itself, they had already secured under the Agreement all that the most criminal compliance could yield, or the most unbounded rapacity desire. This is childishness as well as injustice. The leaders of the Opposition must surely see that, the inevitable faction fight being over, it will be better policy for them now to sheathe their swords and settle down into amicable relations with a power which cannot be slanged out of existence, which is probably too much governed by its commercial interests to cherish any political antipathies, and the consent of which is necessary to any future modification of the compact.

It is only to be lamented that anything remains in the hands of the Government beyond the police of the new territory and the creation of legal titles to land. Even the Block System seems to have done mischief by scattering the settlers and pushing many of them, in a country where road-making is desperately difficult, far away from markets, and from the means of civilized life, especially schools. Mr. Pope's scheme of providing houses and ready-sown farms for Irish immigrants, as the work is to be done by contract, opens up a fresh vista of the jobbery from which the country has just escaped, and, though on a smaller scale, perhaps in a worse form, since simple-minded peasants, bewildered by the novelty of the situation, are likely to